

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-13, 15-19 and 21-24 stand rejected. This paper cancels claims 11 and 21-24 without prejudice. This paper also has rewritten original claim 6 in independent form as new claim 25.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 3, 9, 14 and 20 contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 1 has been canceled and claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form and includes all of the limitations of original claim 1, as originally filed, as the Examiner suggested.

Claim 12 has also been canceled and claim 14 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 12, as originally filed, as the Examiner suggested. Accordingly, claims 3 and 14 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 4-6 and 13, 15-17 depend from claims 3 and 14 respectively, and are in condition for allowance for at least that reason.

Claim 18 has been canceled and claim 20 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 18, as originally filed, as the Examiner suggested. Accordingly, claim 18 is in condition for allowance. Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and is in condition for allowance for at least that reason.

Claims 7 has been amended to include the features of claim 11, and now recites "a buffer module passing the lock signal." Claim 11 is canceled without prejudice. No new issue of patentability has been added by this amendment. New independent claim 25 includes all of the limitations of original claim 6, as originally filed, including the limitations of the original base claim 1. No new issue of patentability is introduced by presenting original claim 6 in

independent form. Similarly to claim 7, claim 25 recites “a buffer module passing the lock signal.”

In the Action, Examiner states that Asami “discloses in figure 4 a buffer module (13) passing the lock signal.” Action page 3. Asami does not disclose a buffer module in Fig. 4. In fact, Figure 4 in Asami does not even contain the reference numeral “13”. Asami only uses the reference numeral “13” to indicate inverters in Figs. 1 and 2. See Figs. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 22-25. An inverter is not a buffer and Asami fails to disclose a buffer module passing the lock signal.

Tsinker also fails to disclose a clock lock circuit having a buffer which passes the lock signal. Since Asami and Tsinker both fail to teach every feature of a clock lock circuit as claimed in claims 7 and 25 as required to maintain a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103, claims 7 and 25 are in condition for allowance. Claims 8-10 depend from claim 7 and should be allowable for at least that reason.

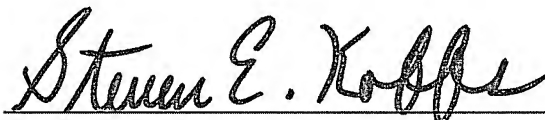
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account **04-1679**.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Steven E. Koffs", written over a horizontal line.

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